

ALDERMEN AT LARGE

AIM GOES TO NEIGHBORHOODS

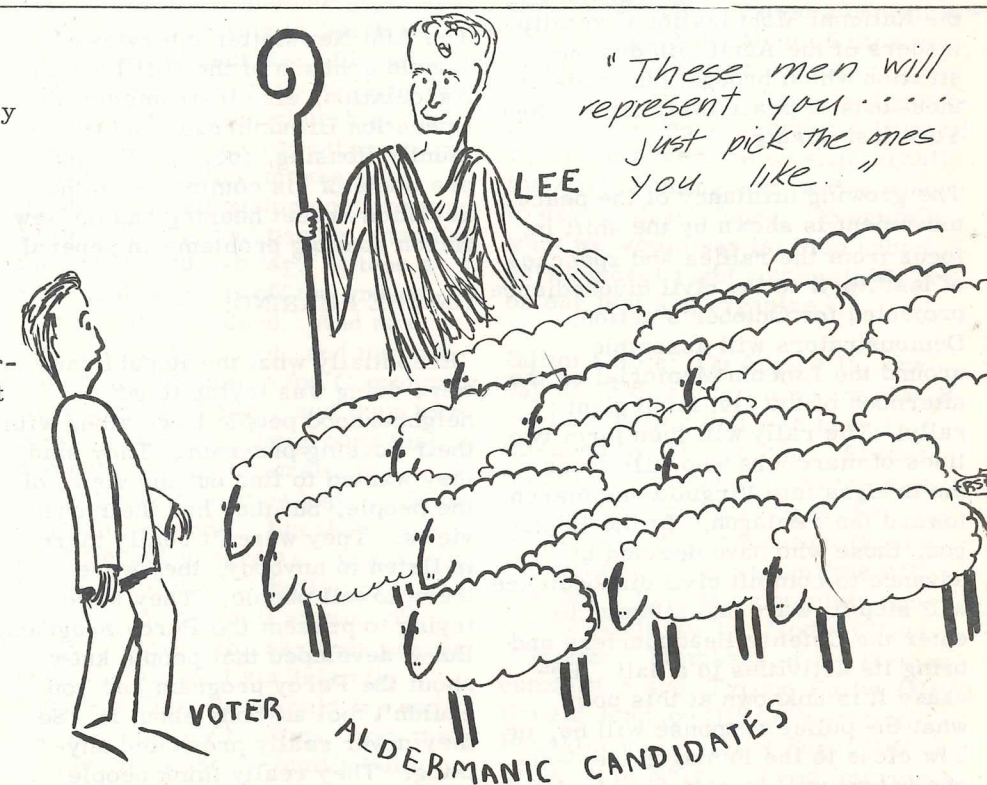
AIM STRATEGY

by Mike Avery

On Monday, September 11, AIM workers met to discuss plans for the coming months, particularly centering around the election campaigns in New Haven. Having already decided to urge voters to boycott the election, the question was what activities AIM would undertake. There was general agreement that AIM had neither the manpower nor the resources to operate a massive boycott campaign. However a number of ideas were suggested which will bring people into contact with residents around specific issues; at the same time AIM workers will discuss the election with voters. If work in particular wards or neighborhoods around issues is successful, it is hoped that people will choose one of their number to be their own "alderman" to represent their ward or neighborhood since the official aldermen will no longer be able to speak for particular neighborhoods.

Specifically, it was decided to undertake four related activities. First, AIM will continue to issue news releases during the campaign articulating our position on the various issues. John Wilhelm will work on this along with others who will prepare releases on specific topics. Second, meetings will be held every other Monday

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ALTERNATIVES TO ELECTIONS

By John Wilhelm

AIM's decision to boycott this fall's New Haven aldermanic election and to urge the city's voters to stay away from the polls, puts the organization in an interesting dilemma. What should we do, now that the chance to work constructively in the local elections has been taken away from us, to affect the problems we're worried about in New Haven?

For those who have followed the

year-and-a-half old court battle over ward reapportionment, either in the local papers or the AIM Newsletter, the complicated series of events leading up to this fall's at-large election needs no repeating. Basically, the Democratic Party has refused to agree to equally populated wards, and the Federal Court in desperation ordered an at-large election for this fall.

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AIM

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OCT 21 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

by Karl Klare

Anti-war forces are gathering in Washington, D.C. over the week-end of October 21st for a major demonstration. Called "Confrontation with the Warmakers," the demonstration is being organized by the National Mobilization Committee, leaders of the April 15th demonstration which brought hundreds of thousands of peace marchers to New York last spring.

The growing militancy of the peace movement is shown by the shift in focus from the rallies and speeches of last April to the civil disobedience projected for October's action.

Demonstrators will assemble around the Lincoln Memorial on the afternoon of the 21st for a giant rally. The rally will then form two lines of marchers who will cross the bridges into Virginia and march toward the Pentagon. At the Pentagon, those who have decided in advance to commit civil disobedience will step forward and attempt to enter the Defense Headquarters and bring its activities to a halt. Because it is unknown at this point what the police response will be, or how close to the Pentagon the demonstrators will be able to get, the National Mobilization Committee has left plans flexible both for legal supporting actions on the 21st and for demonstrations on the 22nd.

One possibility, for instance, will be an all-night vigil at the Pentagon. It is not known what forms of legal and illegal demonstrations will take place if the Virginia State Police bar access to the Pentagon vicinity.

Because in the past the major

RONNIE JOHNSON ON HOUSING

by Ronald Johnson

On Tuesday, August 1st, a "public hearing" on New Haven housing was sponsored at the Scranton Street School by the Republican Advisory Committee. The format of the hearing was to have been presentations by several major speakers, but challenges from city residents turned the hearing into a heated discussion of resident dissatisfaction with current and projected housing plans. Since the hearing, there has been an increased flow of words from officialdom and the media which largely bypasses the roots of the problem.

The AIM Newsletter interviewed Ronald Johnson of the Hill Parents Association, also instrumental in Operation Breakthrough and Community Housing, Inc. Following are some of his comments on the Scranton Street hearing and on New Haven housing problems in general.

ON THE HEARING:

"Essentially what the Republicans were doing was trying to get neighborhood people to go along with their housing program. They said they wanted to find out the views of the people, but they had their own views. They weren't really there to listen to anybody, they were there to tell people. They were trying to present the Percy program. But it developed that people knew about the Percy program and you couldn't fool anybody about it. So they never really presented anything. They really think people need them. And people don't need them 'cause there's too many of them that people have already and they're not being utilized. So we

demonstrations have served to mobilize and involve scores of new people, AIM will be organizing bus caravans to Washington. A particular focus will be the new students at Yale for whom the "Confrontation" may be a first stepping stone toward joining the

don't need them, they need us. And that's just what they're trying to do: get us.

"What they wanted was to use that Percy thing in their platform, but it's been proven that the Percy plan for home ownership doesn't affect low-income people. They had nothing to offer, and they couldn't take suggestions from the audience, which essentially was "stop talking, and listen!"

"Like Joe Harris (of Dixwell Legal Rights Association), Joe Harris said something to the effect that we're tired of you people telling us, we want you to listen to us. You don't know our problems, you can't design programs for our problems, and you can't design platforms for our problems. You just can't do anything for us because you don't know nothing about us. It just wasn't taken -- they never got the message. Like what Clarence Whitney was telling us. He said he had been in real estate and bought this building on Dwight Street; and I guess he thought himself integrated -- he put in a family, a black family, and he was trying to remember the guy's name and one of the black guys in the audience said the black guy's name was Tom, and everybody cracked up, and Clarence Whitney said "No, no, his name wasn't Tom, it was some other name." He never even got the message of what the guy was saying. It just shows a lot about Clarence Whitney. Clarence Whitney's for Clarence Whitney, and that's all: not for the people, not for the Republican Party, and not for anybody else, he's just for Clarence Whitney. He doesn't want to make a change in politics, he just wants to make a change in Clarence Whitney's status, which is

peace movement. AIM will take no position on the question of civil disobedience, however, as this is a matter of individual conscience. People should, of course, weigh carefully in advance the possible effects and consequences of civil disobedience and come to Washington with a clear idea of their plans. 2

true about all politicians.

ON "LOW-INCOME" HOUSING

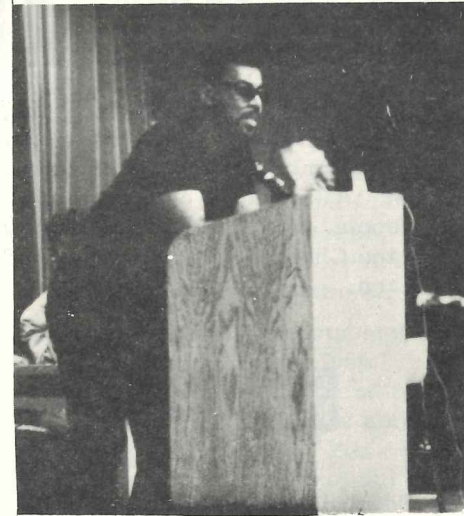
"I don't know the definition of low-income housing. I'd like to see something built like Madison Towers and have a rent certificate program where low-income families could get into it. People are tired of the "low-income" housing we have. Look at Flintstone Village -- that's supposed to be moderate-income and looks like low-income. See, the low-income housing thing: I don't think people should refer to it as low-income housing, 'cause when you say low-income housing people immediately think of projects: Farnham Courts and that other thing up there on Dixwell Avenue, and the high-rise jazz. It should have another title. I really have no conception of low-income housing except as a project. I hope we don't have any projects around here. The first thing you got to understand is that low-income people are behind in housing because of urban renewal. And all the housing that's been built in New Haven to sort of erase the shortage has been moderate-income housing which low-income people still couldn't afford. So they're still behind. So what has to be done now is that whatever you build might be moderate-income, but low-income people would have to fill it.

ON DESIGN

"I wouldn't mind high-rise buildings, but it would probably cost a million dollars to design it the way I would like it. I'd like to see a high-rise building with courtyards and stuff on each floor where people can have trees. Just because you live in an apartment building doesn't say you can't have nature with you. Right now the only thing that will help is if people have money to do what they want to do, and design the kind of houses that they want to design, and if redevelopment and urban renewal start building houses where there aren't any houses, like on Washington Avenue, that park over there or that junk yard.

ON COMMUNITY HOUSING, INC.

"How it got started was that Freddy



Ronald Johnson of Operation Breakthrough.

Harris and I and another guy spoke at a church meeting in North Haven about the bad shortage of housing and how nobody was really working on the problem. That church group sort of went around to other church groups saying that maybe they should start a housing corporation to include resident people, meaning me and Freddy so far. It took a year just to get it off the ground, just to get organized. And now they're incorporated, and they've got an application in for Community Development money, and they have seed money from the groups that are part of the corporation. Essentially what they hope to do is buy and renovate. But there are all different programs. One would be rehabilitation of buildings that they buy for a small amount of money. And then, say they bought and rehabilitated six 2-family houses. Then they would try and buy a 12-family building, take those people out of the 12-family building and put them into the houses that have been rehabilitated, then renovate the other building -- always having a house available where people can move to, always a turnover, but ahead of the game all the time. But that's just part of it. They want to build some new units, they want the residents to participate in the design of some of the apartments, have them plan their apartment with the architect. Hopefully, Community Housing, Inc. is going to be the one that takes all the money from the Community Develop-

ment Act. It's going to be for housing and channeled to us, Community Housing, Inc.

ON THE MODEL CITIES PROGRAM FOR THE HILL

"What we want to do is develop a Neighborhood Corporation which would handle all the monies for the Model City. We want to take over urban renewal too, and people would have a voice in the decisions. See, there's this group, the HECB (Hill Executive Coordinating Board) that's supposed to implement the Model Cities program. Last meeting they had they wanted to just finalize everything and get this Citizen Participation thing over with so that they could send the application in. But we formed a committee to investigate the Model Cities program and what was supposed to be done. We stopped things to investigate it. So we've stopped a little of it, but now we have to stop initially the funds coming until we're ready to deal with the funds. Eventually what we would say is: Stop urban development right now until we get on our feet and organize."

Editors Note: On August 15, one day after this interview, the HECB held a meeting that was heavily attended by HPA people. At that meeting a 12-man committee was set up to form the core of the Neighborhood Corporation Ronnie referred to. The committee will now move to obtain complete control of funds for the Model Cities Program. Members of the 12-man committee are: Tyrone Pulley (HPA), Ronald Johnson (HPA-Operation Breakthrough), Elliot Segal (DNI - Division of Neighborhood Improvement), Willie LaPorte (HPA), Rev. Raymond Schulze (Zion Lutheran Church), Joseph Downey (CPI Hill Coordinator), Jack Davis (HECB), Ernest Osborne (Hill Redevelopment Project), Curtis Belton (HPA-Operation Breakthrough), David Lesser (Congress Ave office, Legal Assistance Assoc.), Mark Ramadec (HECB), and Fred Harris (HPA). On Thursday, August 24, after the curfew was off, this group appointed itself investigating committee for the police riot, and for urban renewal in New Haven.

CONVENTION : '68 AND BEYOND

The following articles are not intended to present a complete report of the NCNP Chicago Convention. They are the assessment and report of two of AIM's delegates only. At the time the Newsletter went to press, a public meeting was planned for Thursday, September 28, at which time AIM delegates were to present a full report and discussion of the convention. A telephone campaign and advertisement posters endeavored to notify the bulk of the AIM mailing list people. An article reporting on the public meeting will appear in a later Newsletter issue. AIM delegates to the Chicago convention were Ed Greer, Bob Cook, Liz Henderson, Harry Henderson, Jim Sober, and Dick Mann.

REPORT ON PERSPECTIVES PANEL

By Liz and Harry Henderson

Several accounts of the Chicago Convention on 1968 and Beyond called by the National Conference on New Politics have been published - the best is Andrew Kopkind's piece in the September 28 issue of the N. Y. Review of Books. Before the Convention, Rennie Davis and Staughton Lynd said that the NCNP "represents the wrong way" for people working in local projects to pool their energies and that the wrong people had called the Convention together. We agree substantially with this judgment, and feel that the inappropriateness of the setting was in large part responsible for the difficulties of communication not only between white and black groups, but among all the participants. The new form for the NCNP worked out in Chicago - half black and half white with a preponderance of local organizers - is very promising. It is only unfortunate that the Convention had to spend so much of its time to get where it could have been in the first place under different leadership.

One of the real successes of the Convention was the Perspectives Panel on Friday, September 1, made up almost exclusively of speakers who felt that a third party or national ticket was premature at this time, and that the main goal of the Convention should not be national politics but better strategies for local organizing.

Dr. Benjamin Spock, who introduced the panel, set the tone for the

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SUMMARY

By Edward Greer

A clear understanding of the events of the Chicago Convention has not yet emerged. The uncertainty and confusion have been exacerbated by the failure of the mass media to describe accurately what occurred. Everyone in the Movement, however, must fully comprehend the Chicago New Politics Convention on '68 and Beyond so that we can proceed both with our immediate tasks of ending the war in Vietnam and defeating racism, and our long range ones of fundamental social change.

Four political events of the first magnitude occurred. To understand the others, it must be realized that these four were the critical ones:

1) There were no major "walk-outs" by any grouping at any point. Although bitter pills were swallowed by different political factions at various confrontations, the desire for and sense of unity in the Movement was stronger than partisan pique. This willingness by all to play the game through to the end both reflected and helped to ensure the historic nature of what transpired. The enemies of the Movement suffered a serious setback by virtue of the fact that such a disparate agglomeration found a path to unity.

2) There was no serious discussion of the war in Vietnam. The reason was that a consensus has emerged within the Movement as to the correct policy on this issue. The

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CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

UNANIMOUS STATEMENT OF THE OLD BOARD OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR NEW POLITICS

The outgoing Board of NCNP said one month ago that where we stand today is exactly where we meant to stand -- with the power again in the hands of the people of the movement. We said that the movement could replace the Board, reshape it, change NCNP's structure or its functions. We said, "Take over!" The convention has done so, and we heartily applaud both the process and the result.

As individuals we will offer our whole-hearted effort in bridging the transition from the old NCNP to the new, in any way that the new Board finds useful to it, and not only for the transition but also into the future of the new politics.

To the country, we say that what must have seemed in the national press and television an agonizing process was one of rebirth and growth.

The people who came to this convention made their own convention -- an event without parallel in the history of the old politics. We are proud that the new politics has been able to accomplish this.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVES RESOLUTION: ((Passed))

...we oppose the creation of a National Third Party -- or a National Third Ticket, which we believe would at this point in our

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report cont.

session with his analysis of the need for local control and his strong endorsement of the concept of black power. The audience gave a standing ovation to his salute to the draft-resisters: "We hail them!"

Rennie Davis of Chicago JOIN spoke on the problems of organizing a national operation. As he said, "How you organize for power is very important." He pointed out that the middle class may not be the "cutting edge," of the Movement, but that local projects among black and Spanish people, poor whites and students should take the leadership. He emphasized that middle-class dependence on the "public mood" is very insecure, and that the NCNP could be most useful by supporting local organizers

Theodore Weiss, NYC Councilman advocated opposing Johnson -- "the worst disaster since the Chicago fire" -- within the Democratic Party. He defended the need for working within the existing political framework, saying, "I am a reformer" and "I want to participate in government and change what my government is doing." He favored maintaining the threat of a third ticket to use as "leverage" on the major parties: "You go into politics to win and use every means at your disposal."

Floyd McKissick of CORE rejected the concept of a third party on a number of grounds, especially the results and aftermath of the Wallace campaign of 1948 and the effect a third party has in inadvertently reinforcing the existing system. "If we are ever going to have power in this country, the power must come from below." He emphasized the wariness of black people of being "used," and their role as the leaders in the struggle against the system of the "twin brothers of capitalism and racism." While saying that their movement appreciated white supporters, he added, "No longer can black people be a plank in someone else's platform -- we ourselves must be the platform."

Clark Kissinger of the Chicago 49th Ward Citizens for Independent Political Action concentrated on the

problems of white organizers, who, he said, were oppressed by the tendency to judge effectiveness by the standards set by the black movement. "It's harder to organize people at the long end of the stick." Members of the white middle class, he went on, are "not even willing to lose their jobs" and have a "fanatical attachment to the electoral process," while white radicals live vicariously off the black power movement.

Robert Scheer of Ramparts and the Berkeley Community for New Politics challenged "the mood of self-contempt and self-hate among white radicals," saying "You can't organize a community you hold in contempt." He maintained the impossibility of backing black liberation at this point "because we don't have a base to deliver." A white radical power base must be sought by speaking "to the self-interest of whites -- by dealing in honest and radical politics."

Charles Scherade of the Southwest Georgia Project reminded the audience "that there are still people working in the South of our country -- working to be free and have peace in our time." He pointed out that in Georgia they have no choice but to work outside the system "if you are not with this system it will not reward you. It means quitting your job. Can you understand that?" He saw it as "too soon" for national politics, and urged that the emphasis on local politics continue. On the national level, "we've got to be for each other what each other needs."

The last speaker was Bob Cook of AIM, concluding the panel discussion by focussing on long range perspectives. Our strategy, he explained should be to build "our own institutions," schools, newspapers, radio stations, "to provide new ways of life for our people." Professionals, he said, must create new professional careers within the movement. We must also develop a radical perspective in order to understand "what must be done to this society to transform it into a democratic, pluralistic, cooperative and humane one." Cook concluded, "I want to pay my debt to the black people of this country who have taught me that I must dedicate my life to changing this corrupt system."

summary cont.

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resolution on Vietnam, passed overwhelmingly after fifteen minutes of debate.

3) After much debate and discussion, a Perspective for 1968 and Beyond was agreed upon which seems to reflect accurately the actual power situation within the Movement. Primary emphasis is placed upon grass-roots community action by local groups engaged in a "national year of local organizing" to "stop the war and transform the cities." Local independent electoral activity is explicitly suggested as a major organizing device.

Although a national third ticket was ruled out as premature, the Perspective included favoring an independent Presidential ticket in those states where local groups wish it to be coordinated by a special conference called for that purpose. (Those states where the organizations were almost unanimously for running such a third ticket were New York, California, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Texas; a unified campaign in those states could probably defeat Johnson without interfering with local organizing efforts elsewhere.)

A structure for NCNP, including a newly elected Executive Board of twenty-six (half white and half black) was set up to implement this Perspective through publications, funding, training organizers, and calling relevant meetings, as well as helping local groups.

4) A qualitatively new form of black-white relations emerged within the Movement in response to the upsurge within the black community in America. There is a great deal of confusion about what happened in this regard, because of the inchoate form through which the demand first emerged on the convention floor. Basically, however, what was agreed upon overwhelmingly by the white organizations present, was that the correct path to black-white alliance and unity was recognition of the national character of the black liberation movement in America. The basis of relations between

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summary cont.

nationalities is equality between large and small ones, as reflected, for instance, in the "one nation, one vote" principle of the U.N.; the same method was felt to be appropriate for NCNP.

At the Chicago Convention, it was therefore agreed that the black organizations present be given equality of voting power on the plenary floor with the white organizations. This was done by the full plenary upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee after an excellent floor debate.

The Black Caucus utilized its voting power with great skill and self-restraint, allaying the fears of many who were concerned with a possible "steamroller." For instance, they did not attempt to alter the Perspectives compromise already arrived at, and they voted for Bob Cook over the Negro candidate put up by the Labor Caucus.

In addition to these major events, several other occurrences are worth noting. First the NCNP structure survived a major political and personnel transformation.

Second, the Movement showed grave weakness around the Middle East question which proved seriously divisive. The inappropriate melding together of that issue with the questions of anti-semitism and black liberation created a confused situation from which unnecessary bitterness ensued, especially as the press misrepresented the final official resolution which condemned the "Israeli government" and not "Zionist imperialism."

Third, several other important resolutions were passed including most notably a demand for abolition of the draft and support for anti-draft groups; endorsement of the October 21 Mobilization Against the War in Vietnam to be held in Washington, D.C.; the setting up of a Commission to inquire into methods of restoring Adam Clayton Powell to his congressional seat; support for the labor movement against anti-strike legislation; and support for the just aspirations of the Mexican-American national minority.

resolutions cont.

history be topheavy and would be mostly empty shells with little local content, and would tend to cut off many Americans who are on the verge of breaking with the old politics but need to be organized before making the leap.

On the other hand, working through the old parties does nothing to break the concentration of power and nothing to deal with the great crisis that afflicts us. We therefore need to seek a third road.

We therefore call for a NATIONAL YEAR OF LOCAL ORGANIZING, to bring into full political action the dismayed, the desperate, and the angry among various groups in America who have not yet begun to take political action.

Therefore we propose that the new politics organization which emerges from this Convention carry on the next year a NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE WAR AND TRANSFORM THE CITIES....

AMENDMENT (Passed): this convention goes on record in favor of an independent Presidential ticket to provide an alternative in 1968 in those states where local groups and organizations want to run such a campaign and feel that there is a base therefor....

RESOLUTIONS ON VIETNAM:

The U.S. military invasion of Vietnam violates the principles and provisions of the U.S. Constitution, the Nuremberg Trials, the U.S. Charter, the Geneva Accords of 1954 and other international laws. The waging of war on Chinese borders may drag the American people and the world into nuclear war. Continued U.S. involvement will only increase the terrible destruction, desolation and death in Vietnam. It is an immoral and unjust war which puts us in opposition to the fight for national independence of the Vietnamese people, and on the side of a corrupt military despotism.

The United States is spending thirty billion dollars a year in waging its war against the Vietnamese people while at home it hardly tries to reduce the poverty and deprivation in which two out of five Americans - - - seventy seven million people, black and white alike - - - are forced to live. We demand that at least that amount of money which is now being spent for the war in Vietnam be used for a systematic public programme, under democratic control to create a decent America.

The United States must immediately stop bombing Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. We call the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam which are not Vietnamese, allowing the Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs without outside interference

RESOLUTION ON THE DRAFT:

NCNP calls for the abolition of the draft because it is undemocratic and because it forces men to serve in the Army against their will, and because it is set up to carry out imperialistic foreign policies abroad and a racist and discriminatory policy at home.

Because the student deferment is an obvious and important example of the injustice of the draft, NCNP proposes a national campaign against the 2-S deferment classification, as a first step.

NCNP further demands the abolition of ROTC in our colleges and universities and the prohibition of recruiting programs at our high schools. NCNP supports conscientious deserter as well as those young men who remain in the military service to work against unjust wars.

EXCERPTS FROM

MIDDLE EAST: We would implore the Arab people and nations to try to live with the reality of Israel and not try to uproot the people. We would also insist that Israel give reparations to the Arab refugees, pay for damage inflicted in the last invasion and return to borders existing before June of 1967.

AIM TESTIFIES ON DOWNTOWN RENEWAL PROPOSALS

On May 29 the Board of Aldermen heard AIM's testimony on the City's proposals to 1) sell the main library to the State for the expansion of its Court facilities, 2) temporarily move the library operation to the Malley warehouse on George Street, which is scheduled for demolition, and 3) then move it again to a new building in the proposed "Government Center." AIM was opposed to all three proposals.

AIM's statement, which was read by Bob Nevins, raised several economic and legal considerations and offered the following alternatives to the City's proposals:

1. The library could remain in its present well-known location, and any necessary addition built to the rear of this beautiful building on land already owned by the City and now used as a parking lot.

a. This would allow the library to continue to play its vital role in the life of New Haven without interruption and with maximum efficiency while it is expanding.

b. If federal financing were delayed, the library could continue to function rather than be stranded in packing cases in a "temporary" warehouse.

c. Saving the cost of two expensive and totally disruptive moves would be a sizable contribution to the cost of the new addition, as would the saving of the cost of rehabilitating a building apparently scheduled for demolition.

2. The expansion of the State Court Complex could assuredly be accomplished without taking this building. Manipulation of the library in this game of musical chairs seems to be part of the City's effort to generate occupants of the proposed 'Government Center,' which raises a whole new set of questions."

Because this testimony was reinforced by that of many other people

including Vincent Scully and pointed out very questionable aspects of the proposal, the Board of Aldermen actually balked at a major proposal of the Urban Renewal program for the first time in its twelve-year history.

More hearings were called but, not surprisingly, AIM was the only interested party to continue to sit through them. Peter Rose discussed this problem of hearings calculated to be irrelevant in his article on the Henry Knox Sherrill Housing proposal in the July 28 issue of the newsletter.

The following are excerpts from the AIM testimony which was read by Harris Stone at the Redevelopment Agency hearing on June 26 and elaborated upon at the Board of Aldermen hearing two nights later:

"This 'public hearing' is only a necessary 'formality.' Its purpose is not to discuss the Redevelopment Agency's idea of tearing down what appear to be two perfectly fine blocks of active buildings in order to build what is referred to as the 'Government Center.' Its purpose in fact seems to be an effort to avoid public discussion of this questionable idea by implementing it one detail at a time, using the device of 'Early Land Acquisition.'

"We of the American Independent Movement (AIM) believe that the City administration has an obligation to the citizens of New Haven and to the most fundamental idea of democracy to hold a full and public discussion on the entire government center proposal before any part of it is approved, let alone implemented.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

"According to the comments made at a recent public hearing the I. M. Pei scheme has been abandoned. What then is the current overall plan for the government center?

How does the proposed New Haven Savings Bank development relate to this plan? Why is the City buying the land on which the bank's main office is to be built that the bank itself already owns?

"Spokesmen for the administration stated at the recent hearing on the proposed sale of the library that the proposed move is based on the recommendations of the Greenaway report. Why then when the report states that library services should be located 'in the heart of the downtown shopping area' has the Agency chosen a site near Elm Street rather than near Chapel Street?

"By State law, the purpose of Redevelopment is to eliminate: substandard, unsanitary, deteriorated, deteriorating slum or blighted areas, which constitute a serious and growing menace, injurious and inimical to the public health, safety, morals and welfare.

"What is the Agency's justification for acquiring for demolition such obviously sound structures as the Powell Building and 185 Church Street? Since these buildings appear to be the best moderate rent office buildings in the area, what is the Agency's plan concerning this commercial need? What is the Agency's plan concerning the three restaurants that are affected by the proposed acquisition? Since they also perform a real commercial function in this area, is space to be provided for them in the proposed development?

"All of us are aware that the idea of the proposed government center is 'controversial.' We're aware that the federal judges, art historians, affected businessmen, and citizens throughout the city have spoken out against various aspects of the proposal. When will these people be given a chance to have their questions fully and openly discussed? -- After 'Early Land Acquisition' makes alternatives impossible?

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THE NEW DRAFT LAW: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By Morty Miller

The new draft law passed in June tightened up the areas of the American system of conscription which had been critized, but it did not liberalize that system. The draft remains (in the words of an earlier Selective Service System memo), "the American or indirect way of achieving what is done by direction in foreign countries where choice is not permitted."

In other words, getting men into the armed forces is only one aspect of the Selective Service System's overall task. The draft isn't just set up to get soldiers into the army. This is spelled out in the Selective Service Orientation Kit (available from SSS National Headquarters):

"Delivery of manpower for induction, the process of providing a few thousand men with transportation to a reception center, is not much of an administrative or financial challenge. It is in dealing with the other millions of registrants that the System is heavily occupied, developing more effective human beings in the national interest."

In the old law which just expired, student deferments and occupational deferments were the glaring examples of the methods of this 'manpower channelling' system. Certain ways of life were rewarded with security. A not-so-hidden unseen hand guided young men into performing in a national interest they had never decided upon.

The SSS found nothing mysterious in the fact that certain ways of life were to be encouraged, or that the expert was accepted as worth more than other men:

"Our most important questions, however, concern the fact that the city administration seems increasingly to be bypassing and cutting off full public discussion of its policies, priorities, and programs. Why? The danger to our democratic tradition inherent in this trend is too well known to all of us."

"Educators, scientists, engineers, and their professional organizations (the SSS Orientation Kit noted), during the last ten years particularly have been convincing the American public that for the mentally qualified man there is a special order of patriotism other than service in uniform -- (that is, as a civilian)..."

So, it seems that the draft and the recent changes in it can't be talked about simply as a method of selecting which young men will become soldiers and which will be passed over. Supplying the manpower for a war in Vietnam and 5,000 bases around the world isn't its only function. (As a matter of fact, that is pretty much taken care of by enlistments.) Furthermore, the draft isn't simply one more example of how black men and non-professionals are manipulated in this society. It isn't simply another example of an injustice that can be corrected by subjecting all men to the same policy. That criticism is fair, but it ignores the fact that the draft plays a more pervasive role in our society than simply that of an institution of discrimination. The clear injustice to the black man has suggested to us the pervasive nature of its coercion.

HOW DID THE NEW LAW CHANGE THINGS?

The main changes were in the conditions placed on the granting of deferments -- students won't be able to escape the draft permanently any longer -- and in the definition of Conscientious Objection. President Johnson, to whose discretion is left much of the determining of how the draft is to function, was expressly

The Board of Aldermen approved the proposed new site of the library on July 10. AIM is now preparing a White Paper on the policies, priorities, and decision making process of the Urban Renewal program which have come to our attention and have been discussed in part in our newsletter articles over the past year.

forbidden to put into practice a lottery system without first submitting it to Congress for approval. Congress also expressed a preference for the drafting of youngest (i.e., 19 year olds) before older men. The significance of the change in the wording of the Conscientious Objector provision of the draft law is unclear. Congress intended to narrow the definition of Conscientious Objection by circumventing the Supreme Court's ruling in U.S. vs. Seeger (1965).

That decision opened up Conscientious Objector status to men who were not members of the traditional peace churches (such as Mennonites, Jehovah's Witnesses, Quakers.) Whether the change in the draft law in fact narrows or widens the definition of Conscientious Objection (which can be argued,) will not be clear until we see how Selective Service and the Federal Courts interpret the provision.

Student deferments were made mandatory (rather than discretionary) for any undergraduate college student considered by his school to be a full-time student in good standing. This applies until the student drops out, graduates, or reaches his 24th birthday. However, when a registrant who has once had a II-S deferment loses it, he is considered a member of the prime age group designated by the President as the age group from which selections for induction are first to be made, irrespective of his actual age. In addition, any student who receives a II-S deferment after 7/1/67 shall not be eligible for a III-A classification by reason of his having a child or children.

In other words, students will no longer be able to prolong their education until they either have a family or are old enough to be passed over by the draft. Sooner or later they must face it.

ON SOUTH VIETNAM'S ELECTION
From the New York Times, Sept. 5, 1967, p. 4:
Prof. Donald Herzberg of Rutgers University: "irregularities were unlikely since the election law forbade them."

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alternatives cont.

Barring an unlikely reversal of this decision by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, this at-large farce will go on in November. As the AIM Newsletter went to press, the appeals court had set September 28 for final arguments on the Republican request to stop the election.

Every voter will have 30 votes for aldermen in this election, with 60 candidates to choose from. The result will be an even larger number of party-lever pullers than usual -- and another all-Democratic Board of Aldermen.

Since no candidate represents any particular neighborhood, the at-large election removes the most important rationale for entering the local elections: the opportunity to do concerted work in a relatively small area is no longer built in.

It seems clear that this neighborhood-level work, carried out on a year-round basis rather than every time an election rolls around, is AIM's only hope of building a political base with any power. Neighborhood work is important for many reasons. It is possible to work with relatively homogeneous groups of people with similar outlooks and problems. It puts us in touch with the everyday problems of the people. And it lends itself to educating people about real democracy: the people should be able to make the decisions that affect their lives, and that begins to an important extent in the neighborhoods.

This last point is especially important in New Haven for the next two years. In this town the most blatantly undemocratic power exercised on people is often urban

renewal. The next two years will bring many crucial decisions by the city on redevelopment in residential areas, such as the Hill project, Fair Haven, the "inner loop," the East Rock connector, the State Street monstrosity, and so forth. Intensive organizing in some of these crucial areas, based on the neighborhood aldermanic campaigns, would have been a beginning toward opposing the undemocratic (and absurd, from the point of view of building a healthy and attractive city) character of these plans.

Now, however, we have lost this chance to make electoral politics more immediately relevant to the problems facing New Haveners. Since the congressional campaign AIM has had considerable difficulty, to say the least, in doing serious work on problems that can't wait until we build an organization with strength at the polls.

Another article in this issue outlines some of the work that will be going on while the other two parties are campaigning this fall. We need to do a good deal more than that, if we are serious about having some real effect in New Haven. AIM ought to take the opportunity forced upon us this fall to teach the people of the city -- and ourselves -- that voting is not the only way to deal with the problems.

We ought to look to the Hill Parents Association for some lessons here. The HPA's experience and strategy are not, obviously, entirely relevant to other parts of the city; but the basic lesson the HPA ought to show us is that there are many ways to build a political power base besides running candidates.

if AIM people began serious work in several areas of the city now, and put into it the time and sweat and

Frustration that people have poured into the Hill for the past four years, we might see some encouraging results. The city is full of serious problems that affect the people in an immediate and pressing way, and there is no reason we need elections to work on these problems and organize people around them.

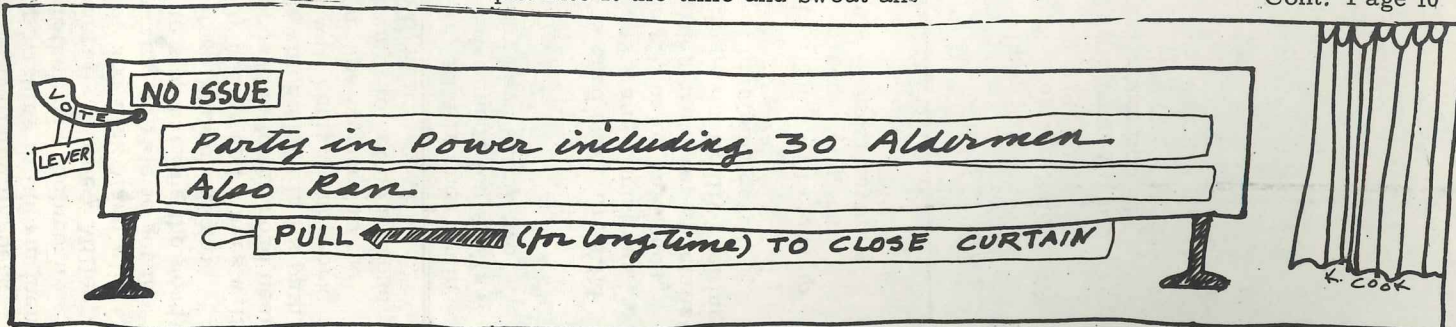
This year-round organizing in the neighborhoods we live in is, in the long run, AIM's only hope of building a strong political base. Since we have no elections to work in this fall, why don't we take the opportunity to begin serious non-electoral work? Among other things we might begin to build a serious threat for the 1969 city elections. And we might even stop a highway or two from wrecking the city.

AIM issued a press release Sept. 8 urging voters to boycott the Nov. municipal election for the reasons outlined in the article above. An editorial appearing in the Sept. 11 New Haven Register stated that while the Register agrees with AIM on "this at-large absurdity," they feel our response "to sulk in the background, and have nothing to do with the election -- is both childish and in the truest sense of the word, Un-American..." The Register editorial seems to urge a vote for Republicans rather than a boycott. In response to that editorial John Wilhelm, on behalf of AIM, wrote the following letter to the editor (Sept. 19):

To the Editor:

The American Independent Movement was surprised to find the Register, in its September 11 editorial, so upset by our call for a boycott of this fall's at-large aldermanic election. You had until then agreed with our position on this

Cont. Page 10



Strategy cont.

farce. In July you editorially applauded AIM for pointing out that the election "will demolish New Haven's long and healthy tradition of neighborhood representation."

On August 13 the Register said that "there will be so much voting, so much vague 'choosing,' so uncertain a municipal result that the individual citizen and voter may well wonder what he's gained." You concluded that "In a situation like this the average voter... may be excused for asking if no election is not, indeed, better than any election."

AIM asked precisely that question, and concluded that no election was indeed better. The Democratic machine is bent on forcing this meaningless election on the people of New Haven. The Republican "opposition" must share the blame too: if the Republicans had refused from the start to play along with the Democrats, in hopes they could get minority representation as a substitute for real political strength, this mess could have been prevented. AIM had plans to run independent aldermanic candidates in several

wards this fall until this at-large farce was perpetrated. We believe that the system of neighborhood representation has great potential for healthy grass-roots democracy. This at-large election destroys that potential. AIM will be active during the campaign to bring out the real issues -- the issues neither major party will raise this fall with the people. No voter should feel compelled, however concerned he is about our city and our nation, to demonstrate his concern by casting a meaningless vote in a farcical election.

AIM sees no reason to bow and scrape before the Democratic machine. We see no reason to pay blind homage to the two-party system, when that two-party system fails as miserably as it has in New Haven this year. We are shocked to find the Register calling AIM's refusal to blindly follow a bunch of corrupt politicians "un-American."

The HPA Market, 562 Congress is open for business. Buy your canned goods and staple items there. Open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Mon. - Sat.

Independent Political Action Committee
241 Orange Street
New Haven Connecticut 06510

opposing the road. In addition, 10 Harris will be available to speak to any group wishing to inform themselves about the road and urban renewal generally. Morty Miller, Rich Hexter, and Dick Mann will begin organizing at Yale to get the University to stop backing the road. Bruce and Rose Brown, Naomi Sanders, Judy Miller and others will organize opposition to the road near their homes which stand in its path. Mike Avery will contact and work with other groups opposed to the road and attempt to set up a broad coalition to fight it.

Jr. AIM is once again working to raise funds for AIM's coffers. They have set up two projects:

(1) Christmas card sale: Jr. AIM artists are designing Christmas cards which will be on sale soon. WAIT and order creative, specialized, interesting, esthetically exciting art treasure Christmas cards.

(2) Work jobs : They will clean up your house, garage, dog, cat, elephant, kids -- most anything.

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